

Sub.D1 &gt;

said arms being operatively coupled to said conveyors  
to move said conveyors independently of each other relative to  
said draft shaft.

36. The apparatus of Claim 35, said openings defining an  
opening area each, with normals on said opening areas being  
rectangularly arranged with respect to said rotational axis.

37. The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein said conveyors are  
movable normally with respect to said draft shaft.

38. The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein said conveyors, once  
positioned adjacent one of said openings by rotation of said  
transport device, are movable towards and from said opening in  
a normal direction of said opening areas.

39. The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein rotation of said  
transport device around said rotational axis substantially define  
a cone-shaped trajectory surface with a cone opening angle with  
respect to said rotational axis of 90°.

40. The apparatus of Claim 39, wherein each of said  
openings defines an opening area, with normals on said opening  
areas pointing in a direction of respective generatrix of said  
cone-shaped trajectory surface.

~~41. The apparatus of Claim 40, wherein said openings are arranged along a circle cut by said cone-shaped trajectory surface by a geometric plane arranged perpendicularly to said rotational axis.~~

~~42. The apparatus of Claim 35, said transport device residing within said chamber further comprising a load lock chamber and a treating station communicating by one of said openings with said chamber.~~

~~43. The apparatus of Claim 42, further comprising gas inlet means and pumping means at least at one of said station and chamber.~~

~~44. The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein said conveyors comprise a seal member for sealingly closing one of said openings when said conveyors are rotated adjacent to said openings by said transport device.~~

~~45. The apparatus of Claim 44, wherein said seal member is formed by a conveyor plate for said workpiece.~~

~~46. The apparatus of Claim 35, wherein each said conveyor comprises a conveyor plate with a projecting positioning pin for positioning a disk shaped workpiece with a central bore.~~

47. The apparatus of Claim 46, further comprising holding means for said workpiece on said conveyor plate.

48. The apparatus of Claim 47, said holding means being formed by spring means acting radially with respect to said pin.

49. The apparatus of Claim 35, said workpiece being one of compact disk workpieces and of magneto-optical storage disk workpieces.

50. The apparatus of Claim 36, said two conveyors being linearly movable towards and from said axis by respective drives provided at said respective arms.

51. The apparatus of Claim 50, wherein said drives are encapsulated by bellows.

Sub.D3> 52. A vacuum chamber for processing at least one workpiece, comprising two openings defining respective opening areas; a transport device with a draft shaft for rotating said transport device around a rotational axis of said draft shaft, two conveyors and a transport arm for each conveyor mounted opposite each other to said drive shaft and each being operatively coupled to one of said conveyors to move said conveyors independently of each other relative to said drive shaft.

53. The chamber of Claim 52, wherein each of said openings defines an opening area with, normals on said opening areas being rectangularly arranged with respect to said rotational axis.

54. The chamber of Claim 52, wherein said conveyors are movable normally with respect to said rotational axis.

55. The chamber of Claim 52, wherein said conveyors, once positioned adjacent one of said openings by rotation of said transport device, are movable towards and from said opening in a normal direction of said opening areas.

56. The chamber of Claim 52, wherein rotation of said transport device around said rotational axis substantially defines a cone-shaped trajectory surface with a cone opening angle with respect to said rotational axis of 90°.

57. The chamber of Claim 54, wherein each of said openings define an opening area with, normals on said opening areas pointing in a direction of respective generatrix of said cone-shaped trajectory surface.

58. The chamber of Claim 55, wherein said openings are arranged along a circle intersected by said cone-shaped trajectory surface by a geometric plane arranged perpendicular to said rotational axis.

59. The chamber of Claim 52, wherein said conveyors comprise a seal member for sealingly closing one of said openings when said conveyor are rotated adjacent to said openings, by said transport device.

60. The chamber of Claim 57, wherein said seal member is formed by a conveyor plate for said at least one workpiece.

61. The chamber of Claim 52, wherein said conveyors comprises a conveyor plate with a projecting positioning pin for positioning a disk shaped workpiece with a central bore.

62. The chamber of Claim 59, further comprising holding means for said at least one workpiece on said conveyor plate.

63. The chamber of Claim 52, wherein said holding means is formed by spring means acting radially with respect to said pin.

64. The chamber of Claim 52, wherein said conveyors are configured to hold workpieces in the form of one of compact disk workpieces and of magneto-optical storage disk workpieces.

65. The chamber of Claim 52, wherein said conveyors comprise a support plate with an upstanding pin; spring loaded holding portions around said pin being biased radially outwardly with respect to said pin, and further comprising holding portions

projecting outwardly with respect to said pin and being biased slightly outside the surface of said pin.

66. The chamber of Claim 53, said two conveyors being linearly movable towards and from said axis by respective drives provided at said respective arms.

67. The chamber of Claim 66, wherein said drives are encapsulated by bellows.

68. A vacuum chamber with two openings and a workpiece transport arrangement with which at least one workpiece within the chamber is selectively brought into a position adjacent to one of said openings, whereby the transport arrangement is provided within the chamber rotatably around a rotational axis and carries two members for holding a workpiece each, a rotation drive is provided to rotate said workpiece transport arrangement, and two displacement drives are provided for displacing said at least one workpiece each with respect to said transport arrangement whereby said members are selectively brought into a position aligned with one of said openings by rotation of said transport arrangement and from such position a workpiece is displaceable towards and from said opening by one of said displacement drives, and said member and said displacement drives are operatively mounted on said transport arrangement rotation drive.

69. A vacuum chamber with two openings and a workpiece transport arrangement with which at least one workpiece within the chamber is selectively brought into a position adjacent to one of said openings, whereby the transport arrangement is provided within the chamber rotatably around a rotational axis and carries two members for holding a workpiece each, a rotation drive is provided to rotate said workpiece transport arrangement, and two displacement drives are provided for displacing said at least one workpiece each with respect to said transport arrangement whereby said members are selectively brought into a position aligned with one of said openings by rotation of said transport arrangement and from such position a workpiece is displaceably towards and from said opening by one of said displacement drives in a direction radial relative to said rotational axis, and said displacement drives are operable independently of each other.

70. A vacuum chamber, comprising two openings defining respective opening areas; and a transport device operatively arranged relative to the at least two openings and including a member movable relative to a rotational axis thereof, two conveyors for transporting at least one workpiece each, and a linear drive for each of said at least two conveyors being operatively coupled between said movable member and a respective conveyor of said at least two conveyors and configured to linearly move said respective conveyors relative to said movable

member independently from the other conveyor of said two conveyors.

71. A vacuum chamber with two openings and a workpiece transport arrangement with which at least one workpiece within the chamber is selectively brought into a position adjacent to one of said openings, whereby the transport arrangement is provided within the chamber rotatably around a rotational axis and carries two members for holding a workpiece, a rotation drive is provided to rotate said workpiece transport arrangement, and a sealed displacement drive is arranged between said transport arrangement and said two members for displacing a workpiece with respect to said transport arrangement, whereby said members are both selectively brought into a position aligned with one of said openings by rotation of said transport arrangement by 180° and from such position a workpiece is displaceable towards and from said openings by said displacement drives, and said members and said displacement drives are operatively mounted relative to said transport arrangement rotation drive.

*Sub D-1>* 72. A method of processing at least two workpieces, comprising the steps of rotating a transport device member around a rotational axis by 180° to bring the two workpieces adjacent an opening in a vacuum chamber having at least two openings, and moving two conveyors radially relative to said rotational axis, independently of each other relative to the transport device